

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**September 30, 2014**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montpelier, VT – Commissioner of Finance & Management, Jim Reardon Announces Two Public Budget Forums to Receive Public Comments on FY 2016 State Budget Development.**

Commissioner of Finance & Management, Jim Reardon has announced two open public forums to discuss the State budget process, revenues and expenditures on October 14 and October 28, 2014. In accordance with Act 162 Sec E.100.1 of the 2012 session, public participation is required with the “development of budget goals, as well as general prioritization and evaluation of spending and revenue initiatives.”

As was the case in the last two years, this year’s meetings will be held, at various sites around Vermont, through Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT). However, this year we will segment the discussion into two distinct groupings of the areas of state government. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, we will focus on all of the non-Agency of Human Services portions of state government. This includes Education, Public Safety, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Commerce and Community Development and Transportation among others. On October 28<sup>th</sup> we will discuss issues related to the Agency of Human Services. On For more information on Vermont Interactive Technologies and directions to the sites, go to: <http://www.vitlink.org>

Date/Time	Area of Government	VIT Locations
<b>Tuesday, October 14, 2014</b> <b>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	Education, Public Safety, Transportation, Commerce and Community Development, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Public Service, and other areas of state government	Bennington, Brattleboro, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Randolph, Rutland Springfield, St. Albans, WRJ, Williston
<b>Tuesday, October 28, 2014</b> <b>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b>	Human Services – Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, Children and Families, Corrections, Health, Vermont Health Access, Mental Health.	Bennington, Brattleboro, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier (the smaller conference room, Newport (the smaller conference room), Randolph, Rutland, Springfield (the smaller conference room) St. Albans, WRJ, Williston

The Forums will consist of brief introductory remarks by Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding, a short FY 2016 fiscal update by Commissioner Reardon, with the remainder of the time devoted to questions and comments from the attendees. We appreciate your participation in the development of budget goals and prioritization and evaluation of spending and revenue initiatives for the State Budget. To assist the Department of Finance and Management with prioritization and evaluation of spending and revenue initiatives, we are asking the public to answer a few questions found at the link provided. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SBPYK89>

This year we will accept written testimony on the public’s priorities. Please address to Commissioner Jim Reardon with the subject **Public Budget Development FY 16** on the envelope. 109 State Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Montpelier VT 05609-5901.